

REMARKS

The Office Action has issued an election/restriction requirement identifying the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Group I - directed to claims 1-9; Group II - directed to claims 10-15; Group III directed to claims 13-19; Group IV directed to claims 20-25; and Group V directed to claims 26-30. Claim 26 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Applicant's representative elects group V directed to claims 26-30 identified by the Examiner as a separate species. Group V and in particular claim 26 recites the elements of, generating a first set of parameters associated with a non-selected objective and a second set of parameters associated with a selected objective, the first and second set of parameters being based on a value set, generating costs at a first cost range based on the first set of parameters if the first set of parameters do not meet constraints associated with the non-selected objective, and generating costs at a second cost range based on the second set of parameters if the first set of parameters do meet constraints associated with the non-selected objective, the first cost range being substantially higher than the second cost range.

Applicant's representative respectfully submits that groups I-IV read on the elected species, and should also be Examined with the examination of claims 26-30 of group V. Each of the groups include elements for generating costs based on at least one of a non-selected objective and a first cost range if a first set of parameters or value set associated with the non-selected objective do not meet constraints associated with the non-selected objective, and generating costs based on at least one of the selected objective and a second cost range if the first set of parameters or value set associated with the non-selected objective do meet constraints associated with the non-selected objective.

Applicant's representative respectfully submits that groups I-IV (Claims 1-25) read on the elected species of group V (Claims 26-30). A substantive examination of the above-identified patent application on its merits is respectfully requested.

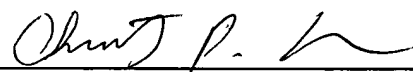
Serial No. 10/798,038

Docket No. HPQ-6657

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at (216) 621-2234, Ext. 104.

No additional fees should be due for this response. In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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